

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMCONSUL ADANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1217

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

BTRUFLAEA/AMCONSUL IZMIR 763

C O N F I D E N T I A L

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E. O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINS, TU

SUBJECT: POLITICAL SEASON HEATS UP

: 76 ADANA 272

1. TWO IMPORTANT PARTY RALLIES WILL BE HELD IN THE ADANA CONSULAR DISTRICT THIS WEEKEND. ECEVIT WILL ADDRESS AN RPP RALLY IN GAZIANTEP AND DEMIREL WILL SPEAK AT TARSUS. WE HAVE HEARD THAT THE DEMIREL RALLY IN TARSUS MARCH 26 IS INTENDED TO RIVAL THAT OF ECEVIT LAST NOVEMBER (DESCRIBED REFTEL).
2. DEMIREL'S IMPENDING ARRIVAL IN TARSUS HAS BEEN A CATALYST FOR VIOLENCE. THE PRESS REPORTS THAT A FIGHT MARCH 21 BETWEEN JP

MEMBERS WHO WERE PUTTING UP POSTERS HERALDING DEMIREL'S RALLY AND RPP MEMBERS LED TO TWO MEMBERS OF RPP BEING STABBED AND TWO POLICE WOUNDED BY STONES AND STICKS. THE RPP BUILDING IN TARSUS WAS ALSO STONED, AND THE SECURITY DIRECTOR HAS REPORTEDLY REQUESTED HELP FROM MERSIN. THREE STUDENTS HAVE BEEN WOUNDED IN VIOLENCES IN TARSUS' LYCEES.

3. THE RPP FAITHFUL FROM FIVE PROVINCES ARE SCHEDULED TO RALLY IN GAZIANTEP MARCH 27. MALIK KUCUKTEPEPINAR (ADANA PROVINCE RPP PRESIDENT) PRIVATELY DESCRIBED THIS EVENT AS A DETERMINED EFFORT BY

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RPP TO ASSERT ITS RIGHT TO OPERATE IN GAZIANTEP, DESPITE THE CONTINUING VIOLENCE THERE AND WHAT KUCUKTEPEPINAR SEES AS A PRO-RIGHT BIAS ON THE PART OF THE GAZIANTEP POLICE. CUMHURIYET OF MARCH 23 ASSERTS THAT POLICE WHO HAVE BEEN "IMPARTIAL" IN GAZIANTEP'S RIGHT-LEFT STUDENT VIOLENCE ARE BEING TRANSFERRED OUT OF THE CITY.

4. RECENTLY THE RPP PRESIDENT FOR GAZIANTEP WAS QUOTED BY THE

PRESS AS SAYING THE RIGHT WING COMMANDOES SEEK TO MAKE GAZIANTEP INTO A PILOT REGION.

5. AS ECEVIT'S RALLY DRAWS NEAR, VIOLENCE CONTINUES IN GAZIANTEP. ON MARCH 21 A FIGHT DEVELOPED BETWEEN MEMBERS OF JP AND RPP WHO

WERE CHECKING THE POSTED LISTS OF REGISTERED VOTERS IN THE GAZIANTEP PROVINCE TOWN OF NIZIP. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, ONE JP SUPPORTER WAS SHOT TO DEATH AND ANOTHER WOUNDED. ANOTHER FIGHT BETWEEN JP AND RPP PARTISANS TOOK PLACE IN ULUYATIR (GAZIANTEP PROVINCE), AND TWELVE PEOPLE WERE ARRESTED. IN GAZIANTEP CITY, POLICE WERE STONED AS THEY SOUGHT TO BREAK UP A FIGHT BETWEEN STUDENTS, AND ONE GROUP OF THESE STUDENTS THEN ATTACKED A RIGHT WING COFFEE HOUSE, CAUSING DAMAGE THERE. 6. VIOLENCE ALSO OCCURED IN DIYARBAKIR, TUNCELI, MERSIN, AND MALATYA, WITH A NUMBER OF INJURIES (INCLUDING FIVE POLICE). 7. COMMENT: THE ELECTION SEASON IS NOW CLEARLY UNDER WAY HERE, AND RECENT EVENTS INDICATE THE PROSPECT OF SUBSTANTIAL VIOLENCE AND OCCASIONAL BLOODSHED.

VON DEN STEINEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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